GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:76
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2005
RAILWAYS COMPETITION WITH LOW BUDGET AIRLINES
Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai;Singh Shri Sugrib

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to gear up with measures to compete with low budget airlines directly targeting upper class railway passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and measures taken/to be taken in this regard;

(c) whether the Railways have made any assessment of the trend of passenger earnings during 2003-04, 2004- 05 and till date; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD)

(a) to (d):A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.76 BY SHRI SUGRIB SINGH AND SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 28-07-2005 REGARDING RAILWAYS` COMPETITION WITH LOW BUDGET AIRLINES

(a) & (b): Railways are aware of the competition in the Airlines sector particularly due to low cost Airlines. However, Airlines are offering only a very limited number of seats at low fares and have conditions attached to travel, booking and cancellations. Following steps have been taken or proposed to be taken by the Railways to gear up to the competition:

(i) Developing additional seating capacity in trains by introducing additional trains.

(ii) Enhancing the load of more patronised trains to the maximum to meet the demand.

(iii) Attaching additional coaches in trains to clear waiting list.

(iv) Improving utilisation of coaching stock so as to ward off the shortage of coaches.

(c) & (d): Actual Passenger earnings during the Financial years 2003-04 and 2004-05 and Approximate Passenger Earnings during 2005-06 (April-June, 2005) are as under:-

Financial Year	Earnings (in Rs. in crore)
2003-2004	13,298
2004-2005	14,113 (provisional)
2005-06 (till June, 2005)	3809 (approximate)